

## New-York Daily Tribune

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1863.

TRIPLE SHEET.  
NEWS OF THE DAY.

## THE WAR.

By steamer to Philadelphia we have advices from Charleston to the afternoon of the 1st inst. Gen. Gillmore was toiling shells into Charleston at the rate of twenty per day. The inhabitants of the doomed city had been removed beyond the reach of the explosive. Sumter is no longer worth firing; it is a mere wreck, no flag flies there, and Gillmore is busy with better game. The Rebels have earned another certificate for high-toned morality in the Moultrie House dodge. This large building, once a watering place hotel, has for a long time been decorated with the universally respected hospital flag. Of course our guns were carefully ranged with a view to the practice of all civilized people. Well, after months of hospital immunity, down goes the Moultrie House one fine night, and discloses a powerful battery which the traitors had built and armed under protection of that hospital flag. Will the Copperheads and other traitors please make a note of this fact—they may hear of it hereafter.

Ex-Gov. Pratt, who was sent to Richmond by order of Gen. Schenck, is a violent, consistent Disunionist, with a son in the Rebel service, with whom he has been corresponding. At the late election he refused to take the oath of allegiance. After the election he made one of a large number who attempted to get the Judges of Elections indicted for having faithfully performed their duty in rejecting disloyal votes. Failing in this, they threatened and abused the Judges to such an extent that Gen. Schenck ordered their arrest. All except ex-Gov. Pratt thereupon took the oath of allegiance and were released.

The War Department has agreed, so far as New-York is concerned, to allow each town and Ward credit for all volunteers they may have raised since the last draft, the number so raised to be deducted from the quota under the call recently made. The Governor is also authorized to raise complete companies of infantry for regiments now in the field that have less than their proper number of company organizations, but there is no authority to consolidate regiments.

We have news from Cumberland Gap to the 3d inst. On the previous day there was a sharp fight between ours and Rebel cavalry, while our men were trying to cross Clinch River. We were repulsed with a loss of fifty men, but captured four guns. Knoxville dispatches of the 30th ult. report all well, and say that in the assault on the 29th the Rebels lost 1,000 men killed and wounded.

Talk about under-ground railroads; leave the Rebels alone for that. John Morgan made one, and now we learn that seventy-eight Rebel prisoners escaped from Camp Douglas (near Chicago) on Wednesday night, by digging a tunnel from the barracks to an outside fence. Between twenty and thirty of them were retaken up to Thursday evening.

A dispatch from Cairo of the 3d inst. says that 77 Rebel prisoners from Columbus, Ky., passed through that place on Thursday for Indianapolis. Reports prevail to the effect that the Rebel force threatens Columbus. Sixty tons of sanitary goods were shipped from Cairo on Thursday for Chattanooga, by the Illinois Sanitary Commission.

Rear-Admiral Farragut, commanding the West Gulf Blockading Squadron, who has been for some time on leave of absence, reported on Thursday morning to the Navy Department in person.

## NEWS FROM EUROPE.

The steamship Scotia, from Liverpool, Nov. 21, via Galway Nov. 22, arrived here yesterday morning. A telegraphic summary of her news has already been published. The foreign files received by her are three days late.

The disputed succession in the Duchies of Schleswig-Holstein is assuming an international importance. The Prince of Augustenburg has issued a proclamation to the people of the two Duchies, announcing that he will appeal to the Federal Diet for the protection of his rights. He has been recognized as Duke of Schleswig-Holstein by the Grand Dukes of Baden, Oldenburg, and Saxe-Weimar, and the Dukes of Saxe-Coburg and Saxe-Meiningen, and his cause is advocated by nearly the entire German press.

It is reported that Spain, Italy, Portugal, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, the Pope, and the Sultan, have accepted the proposition for a Congress. The four Kings of Hanover, Saxony, Bavaria, and Wurtemberg, have also accepted the proposition—reserving, however, their definite reply until after the decision of Austria and Prussia.

## GENERAL NEWS.

A singular case has just been decided in the English Divorce Court. Mademoiselle Victoria Balfe, a daughter of the great composer, was plaintiff for divorce against her husband, Sir Henry Crampton, formerly Minister of Great Britain in the United States and afterward in Russia. Sir Henry was married to Miss Balfe at St. Petersburg, in 1861, and now the lady claims divorce on the ground of unconsummated marriage and the inability of Sir Henry to complete his part of the contract. The case was one of unusual interest, and the celebrated advocate to the Queen, Dr. Loebeck, was called upon to make a medical examination; but Sir John declined to submit. During the trial a question was raised as to the right or power of the Court to order such examination; but it was shown that the Ecclesiastical Court had often done so in the case of clergymen, and so it was established. Counsel for Sir John then declined to offer any defense, and the Court decided the marriage null and void—and so Miss Balfe is still Miss Balfe, and Sir John is a free man.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Association for the Relief of Indigent and Aged Females was held in St. Paul's Church on Thursday evening. The receipts of the year amounted to \$8,164 01; expenditures, \$11,750 86; expenses over income, \$3,586 85. Mr. A. Gilbert is First Director; Mrs. A. T. Anderson, Secretary; Mrs. James S. Cooper and W. B. Bibbins, Physicians.

About 3 1/2 p. m. on Thursday, flames were discovered issuing from a range of shacks near Eleventh avenue, between Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth streets. The buildings were entirely destroyed, loss about \$4,000. The fire is supposed to have been the work of two malicious boys. Fire Marshal Baker has ordered their arrest.

Caucuses are to be held this (Saturday) evening at Washington to nominate candidates for Speaker and Clerk of the House of Representatives. One caucus is called by the "Union" members; the other by the "Democratic Conservative and Constitutional Union" crowd.

The third Auditor of the Treasury, Mr. Atkinson, who has been confined two weeks by sickness, has resumed his duties. The business thus unavoidably delayed, will be at once transacted.

Official statistics show a much more favorable position of our foreign trade than has been generally supposed. The balance largely in our favor for each of the three years of the war.

J. W. Deeble of the District of Columbia has been appointed storekeeper of the Washington Navy Yard, in place of George W. Beale.

Gold opened at 153 1/2, and soon fell to 152 1/2. From this rate it rallied to 153 1/2, and closed at the Stock Exchange at 153 1/2. In the afternoon the quotation was 152 1/2, at which business was done at 3 p. m. Stocks on the Street were lower. At the regular Board Government bonds were: Consols of 1881 were 104 1/2; Certificates, 99 1/2; 4 1/2% Bonds steady; Tennessee 6s, 99 1/2; Missouri 6s, 99 1/2. Money is more active at 7 1/2 c. and more activity was shown in making up accounts than for several

days. Bank managers are still prudent, and wait for Mr. Chase's annual report, and his statement of the financial policy to be pursued. It is stated that his expenses are not so large as many disloyal presses represent them, and that he can manage his department without further legislation.

Dispatches from Chattanooga represent all quiet, and state that Bragg has been removed from command of the Rebel forces; that Hardee, of the "Tactics," is in his place, and is making great efforts to gather up the fragments of the army and whip Grant awfully.

Our correspondent with the Army of the Potomac says that the enemy made a strong demonstration on Thursday night, attempting to cross the Rapidan at Germanna Ford, but Gen. French induced them to keep on their own side. Nothing beyond skirmishing disturbed the serenity of the evening.

On the third page, this morning, we give Book Reviews; on the fourth page, Editorials and a report concerning Union prisoners in Richmond; on the ninth page, a full history of Gen. Rosecrans's Campaign; on the tenth an interesting letter from our special correspondent in the Pennsylvania coal fields about the extraordinary rise in the price of coal, and how and why it is; also a letter from Norfolk.

Gen. McClellan has taken the field. The long incubation is over, and he comes out a candidate for President. The Conservative Union National Committee met on Thursday, at Cincinnati, its proceedings being managed by such Union men as Washington Hunt, Garrett Davis, Leslie Combs, J. Scott Harrison, Emerson Etheridge, Wm. Read, B. Davis Noxon, aided by a host of unheeded fledglings. A great number of speeches were made, and the Advisory Convention finally resolved to adopt the Kentucky Platform of 1862, and name McClellan for Presidential candidate. These proceedings were on Friday laid before the larger body, who referred the resolution to the meeting to be held in Philadelphia on the 23d inst. During the proceedings about a dozen Border State men were put down as candidates for Vice-President.

The State Canvassers of New-York completed their work yesterday, and declared the following as the official footings of the returns of the November general election:

	Union	Dem.	Union Maj.
Secretary of State.....	314,347	284,942	29,405
Comptroller.....	314,336	284,849	29,487
Canal Commissioner.....	313,849	284,084	29,765
Attorney-General.....	313,865	284,702	29,163
Treasurer.....	314,303	284,618	29,685
Prison Inspector.....	314,093	284,580	29,513
Engineer.....	314,792	284,734	29,058
Judge of Appeals.....	313,327	283,532	29,795
Average.....	314,097	284,678	29,399

The highest on the Union ticket is for Engineer, 314,362; the highest Democrat is Canal Commissioner, 284,984; Union majority at these figures, 29,378; the lowest Union is Judge of Appeals, 313,327; the lowest Democrat is also Judge, 283,532; Union majority, 29,795. Last year the Democratic majority (average) was 10,365. We gain, therefore, for the Union side 40,734. It will do, for Seymour & Co.

Mr. Niven, Democrat, is declared elected Senator from the Orange and Sullivan district, by 16 majority. The case will of course come before the Senate for final adjudication.

## MR. GUNTHER AND HIS FRIENDS.

A man once applied to Talleyrand, when Minister of Louis XVIII., for office, claiming to be one of those who fled with the monarch to Ghent, on the return of Napoleon from Elba. "Are you quite sure that you were with the King on his way to Ghent?" asked the wily Minister. "Why that question, Monsieur?" "Because there were about eight hundred went with His Majesty to Ghent, whereas fully eighteen thousand accompanied him on his return."

One little week ago, Mr. Gunther had few or no friends among leading politicians or in the journals. Now, you might suppose that every one you meet (or read) had favored his election. Last week he was a bolter and disorganizer; now he is the head of the heap—Godfrey the Desired—the magician who is to purge away our Municipal corruptions and to rejuvenate the Democratic party! Journals that seemed to be doing their best to defeat him now talk as if they had elected him! Lest his head should be turned by too much incense, we beg to remind him that THE TRIBUNE opposed him last time and this, and expects to oppose his reelection.

We told the People that his politics were pretty bad—and we still maintain it. We gave them no reason to believe that he would sink the partisan in the patriot or the reformer; and we presume he will not. We said but one thing in his favor—that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, we was not a jobber, and would not steal—and that assurance we still expect him to make good. It is not very much to ask of a wealthy and respected New-York merchant, and we have no doubt with regard to it.

But what can he do?

A great deal. Let us show how:

If he now takes up the whole machinery of our City Government, studies it thoroughly, and takes the advice of honest, capable, experienced persons, who know a great deal more about it than he and we do, he may be ready on the 1st of January to recommend specific reforms which will reduce our annual taxation by at least One Million Dollars. And, if these reforms shall be planned and shaped with no reference to partisan advantage, and legislation is needed to consummate them, we confidently assure him that it can be had. Let him send his bills up to Albany, in the hands of some fair, honorable man, who would sooner cut off his right hand than offer a bribe, and who will neither log-roll nor intrigue, and they will be easily passed. At least, until it is fairly tried, let no one say that the Legislature will not do whatever is right.

—But where can the saving be effected?

We answer—First, in the City Printing and Advertising. We believe the City is paying over a Quarter of a Million Dollars per annum for these two items, whereas at least One Hun-

dred and Fifty Thousand is either stolen by officials or squandered on periodicals that ought not to have it. We are among the recipients of the \$150,000 or so disbursed for Advertising, and we say that it is all wrong and should be reformed. Our share in the division is quite satisfactory, and it is right that we should have it, so long as the system remains; but the system is incurably vicious, and ought to be changed.

How?

Instead of having six or eight daily and ten or fifteen weekly papers employed to publish the proceedings of the Boards of Aldermen and Councilmen, Supervisors, &c., let one daily newspaper only be employed to print them all and paid the rates of advertising established by law. Let the journal of largest daily circulation in the City, or within a radius of one hundred miles, be selected for this service; if that journal will not accept it, let it go to the next, and the next until the journal of largest circulation that will take it at legal rates is reached, and there let it rest. Let it be widely proclaimed that all the proceedings of our Municipal Boards—School Commissioners and all—will appear in this official journal without delay or curtailment. And then let the four journals next in daily circulation be employed to print at legal rates, notices of Elections at hand, Registration, Official Canvasses, &c., but nothing more. The total expense of all this could not exceed \$50,000 per annum, and the saving could not be less than \$100,000.

We believe a like saving could be effected in the City Printing, though we are less familiar with that. It is notorious, however, that the downright robbery therein is gigantic.

Our Petty Justices—Civil and Police—are now paid salaries nakedly atrocious—treble what they formerly were, and at least double what they should be. It is monstrous that these one-horse concerns should be paid salaries larger than that of the Governor of the State. But enough for a beginning.

## THE RECORD OF GEN. ROSECRANS.

In the supplement to this issue will be found a lengthy review of the career of Gen. Rosecrans as Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Cumberland. As will be seen from its date, the document has been in our possession for some weeks; but we deemed it best, for reasons which need not be explained, to defer its publication until now. The delay will account for certain phrases and paragraphs in it that may now seem out of season and place. The writer has had authentic sources of information, and can adduce the best authorities for all matters of fact alleged by him.

The main subject of the review is the campaign terminating in the battles of the Chickamauga, and the retreat of our forces to Chattanooga. Of the preceding period of Gen. Rosecrans's career, only the most salient points are reviewed. Among these, the continued postponement last Spring and Summer of offensive operations from Murfreesboro', until the latter part of June, appears not only to have furnished the first occasion for dissatisfaction on the part of the Government with Gen. Rosecrans, but also to have been the original cause of the September disaster, because of the fruitless early Summer campaign, the loss of the opportunity to fight a decisive battle north of the Tennessee River, and the necessity involved of seeking the enemy in the mountainous region south of it, far away from our base of operations.

In regard to the Georgia campaign, the writer makes the following statements:

1. The Government assumed the responsibility of the issue of the campaign up to the time of the fall of Chattanooga by ordering Gen. Rosecrans peremptorily to cross the Tennessee before he considered himself ready for the movement.

2. Gen. Rosecrans never asked for reinforcements, and for supporting movements until the 11th of September, so that, whatever blame may be justly attached to the Government for not providing them, he has no reason to complain, as he has done since his removal, of being sacrificed.

3. Upon the evacuation of Chattanooga by the enemy, Gen. Rosecrans, without satisfying himself thoroughly as to the real intentions of his adversary, by reconnaissance and otherwise, assumed that Bragg was merely bent upon another campaign from the clutches of our army, and upon that theory divided his command into three columns, and ordered them to move over three separate routes, 20 to 35 miles apart from each other, for the purpose of intercepting the supposed flight of the enemy. This mistaken pursuit took the different parts of the army beyond supporting distance of each other, over lines of march converging upon the position assumed by Bragg, so that they were exposed to the danger of successive attack and destruction by the whole Rebel force.

4. The safest course for Gen. Rosecrans was to concentrate his army in front of Chattanooga; fortify the position; perfect his communications with the North; accumulate supplies, and continue offensive operations only after accomplishing all this. This course was also dictated to him in specific instructions from Gen. Halleck. To effect the concentration before Chattanooga, all he had to do after the abandonment of the place on the 8th, was to move the army down Lookout Valley and around the northern spur of Lookout Mountain. In three days, at the farthest, the movement might have been accomplished. By acting contrary to the instructions of the General-in-Chief, Gen. Rosecrans at once relieved the Government from, and assumed himself all responsibility for the subsequent events of the campaign.

5. Upon discovering his mistake as to the movements of the enemy and the necessity of rescuing his army from the peril of destruction in detail, by re-concentration he moved his command into a position that left Chattanooga partially uncovered, and invited the enemy to get between him and that place. When this was begun, the army was not shifted to a better position as expeditiously as it might have been, but was drawn into a general action while making a movement by the left flank—a disadvantage, which brought it to the verge of defeat at the very beginning of the conflict, and

rendered it impossible for our troops to win the battle of the 19th.

6. The loss of the battle of the 20th was mainly due to an order of Gen. Rosecrans, given upon the strength of erroneous information. For its execution Gen. Wood is unjustly held responsible by him for the rout of the center and right.

7. Gen. Rosecrans, after being cut off from the army by the reverse on the center and right, believed that the disaster extended to the whole line, and that everything was lost. By going to Chattanooga, a distance of ten miles from the battle-field, he virtually abandoned his command to its fate. As the sound of continued battle must have been heard by him all the afternoon, it will be difficult for him to find an excuse for such a step.

It is evident that the turning-point in the fortunes of the Army of the Cumberland in the Georgia campaign was the failure to concentrate it promptly in front of Chattanooga, after the town had been abandoned by the Rebels. The orders, relative to the pursuit, as well as other facts, given by our correspondent, place the systematic attempts of certain friends of Gen. Rosecrans to create the impression that this army could be brought to the front of Chattanooga only in the way it was, and that the battles of Chickamauga, as fought, were unavoidable incidents, in an anything but creditable light. To deny, that the whole army could be concentrated before Chattanooga by simply moving it down Lookout Valley, is as untrue as to assert that it was necessary to march Crittenden's corps to Dalton, Thomas's to Lafayette and McCook's to Summerville, as their orders required, in order to get them to Chattanooga.

Thus it seems that, had General Rosecrans carried out Gen. Halleck's instructions, the loyal people would have never had to mourn over a disaster to the Army of the Cumberland. We will not say that a battle was avoidable; but we hold that it could have been fought on our own terms as to time and place instead of those of the enemy, and that in that contingency quite another result would have followed.

The reverses on the Chickamauga, of course, controlled the recent operations of Gen. Grant. These have been successful; but it should not be forgotten that with them a double expenditure of life and limb has been incurred, and that the preparations for the efforts to retrieve the disaster of September has used up the season for the contemplated Fall campaign into the interior of Georgia, and renders necessary the postponement of further offensive movements in that quarter until next Spring.

## A NEW COMPLICATION IN EUROPEAN POLITICS.

The death of the King, Frederic VII., of Denmark, greatly adds to the political complications of Europe, and may hasten a crisis. The late king had no children, and the throne consequently had to devolve upon the next of kin, in accordance with the law of succession. This law, however, is itself a matter of controversy between the Danes on the one hand, and the Germans of the Duchies of Schleswig and Holstein on the other, and hence arises, what Europe has not seen for a long time, a case of disputed succession.

In Denmark proper, in accordance with the *Lex Regia* promulgated two centuries ago, the crown of the monarchy is transmissible to females. In Schleswig and Holstein, on the contrary, in common with the rest of Germany, the Salic law prevails, according to which the crown can only descend to heirs male. According to the former law, Prince Christian, the father of the Princess of Wales, is the lawful successor in Denmark proper; according to the Salic law, the Prince of Augustenburg would be entitled to succeed in Schleswig and Holstein.

In order to prevent the evil of a disputed succession, a Conference of the Grand Powers was held in 1852 in London, at which it was agreed by England, France, Russia, Austria, Prussia and Sweden, that Prince Christian should succeed in all the Danish Possessions, but that hereafter the Salic Law should regulate the succession. In consequence of the provisions of this Conference, Prince Christian has been proclaimed by the Danes not only King of Denmark, but also Duke of Schleswig-Holstein. The Germans of these two Duchies, however, maintain that foreign Powers have no right to dispose of them; that any alteration in the right of succession, to be valid, requires the assent of the Diets of the two Duchies and of the Federal Diet of Germany; that neither of these two bodies has given its assent; that, consequently, the claim of the Prince of Augustenburg to succeed King Frederic as Duke of Schleswig and Holstein remains unimpaired.

We learn by the latest advices from Europe, that the Prince of Augustenburg has been recognized as Duke of Schleswig-Holstein by the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and other German sovereigns, though Austria and Prussia have not yet declared themselves. A meeting of leading men of the two Duchies has been held, and called upon the Prince of Augustenburg to place himself at the head of the people. The Prince, in his turn, has issued a proclamation to the people of the Duchies, declaring his assumption of the Government, and pronouncing further Danish rule as usurpation. He appeals to the German Federation to protect him in his rights.

The settlement of the question will now depend upon the decision that may be taken by the Federal Diet of Germany. If it supports the claims of the Prince of Augustenburg, and aids him in taking possession of the Duchies, hostilities with the united Scandinavian kingdoms appear to be unavoidable. In such a case there would be a strong inclination of several of the grand Powers of Europe to take an active part in the war.

A curious incident in this new European complication is the conflict of interests which it is likely to produce in the Royal family of England. The Princess of Wales is the daughter of the present King of Denmark. The brother-in-law of Queen Victoria, the Duke of Coburg, leads the German party. The Crown Princess of Prussia must be presumed to lean toward the same party. In the ordinary course of things, the Prince of Wales must be expected to take

the Danish side, and his brother, Prince Alfred, who is to be the successor of the Duke of Coburg, the German side of the question. Perhaps the very nature of these conflicting interests may tend to find a peaceable solution for a question which is generally looked upon as insoluble.

## FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to The N. Y. Tribune.  
WASHINGTON, Friday, Dec. 4, 1863.  
THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The President is still hard at work in his Message, when he feels well enough to work at anything.

## THE REPORTED REMOVAL OF GEN. MEADE.

All reports about the removal of Gen. Meade that spring up before the meeting of Congress are premature. After the President obtains strength and leisure sufficient to enable him to weigh the merits and demerits of the six days campaign just closed, a decision may be expected. There is no doubt that there is and will be a very strong pressure in favor of a change, and unless something should happen meanwhile to alter opinions, it is next to certain that Meade will be relieved.

## THE SEASON FOR CAMPAIGNING.

The statement that the season for campaigning is over is ridiculed by a high officer recently from the front. There is great dissatisfaction among the officers in the army, which is shown even by some of the most bigoted West-Pointers. The younger men, who have still their spurs to win, are especially displeased that no chances for winning a name for themselves are afforded. The useless marching and countermarching this Fall has disgusted the men, who want to go to Richmond, or at least to whip Lee, whose army they know to be vastly inferior to our own. These complaints will find expression through authoritative mouths. The silence which Gen. Meade is falsely asserted to have imposed upon the correspondents of newspapers has been religiously observed himself. No dispatches in cipher or otherwise were received from him in Washington from the hour he crossed the Rapidan to the hour of retreating; and there is reason to believe that none have yet been received.

## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY.

One of the most interesting reports ever issued by a Secretary of the Navy is now preparing by Mr. Welles. As already stated, the estimate for all branches of the naval and marine corps will not exceed one hundred and forty-two millions. The item that increases the estimate to this figure is one of a temporary character, and which will not be likely to repeat itself in such magnitude again. It is the expenses of construction and purchase of an immense fleet, which now being the property of the Government will only cost an annual maintenance and repair. When it is remembered that something like sixty iron-clads, and probably as many wooden ships, are building for the Government, advances on which are made almost every quarter, the expenditure cannot be considered enormous. The report will suggest many improvements in the management of naval matters. The large sum of money realized by prices will materially help to pay the indebtedness of the department, while the injury done to the Rebels by preventing the delivery to them of the cargoes of these prizes can only be estimated by those who know the straits of the Confederates at present. Secretary Welles will donate some space to the discussion of the iron-clads, and it is said that his reason for the failure of the attack on Charleston is that the harbor obstructions are too great to be overcome by vessels. There being only seven or eight impregnable ships there, when one of them would get aground, sending one of two wooden ships to her assistance would be out of the question, as they would be sunk immediately by a concentrated Rebel fire. I understand that the Secretary will proclaim continued faith in the power of these vessels, so far as their impregnability is concerned. The operations on the Mississippi and elsewhere during the year will receive proper attention, also the dispatch of some vessels to the East India squadron. Mr. Welles will probably be able to count 650 or 700 vessels as the property of the Navy Department.

## THE SPEAKERSHIP.

There is no doubt that Schuyler Colfax will be Speaker of the House of Representatives in the 38th Congress. Should a ballot be taken at the caucus, which is called for to-morrow evening, his majority will be decisive. The Iowa delegation, which has until very recently been relied upon to vote solid for Mr. Washburne, at a meeting held this evening unanimously resolved to support Mr. Colfax.

## THE OTHER OFFICERS.

It seems to be generally understood that the caucus will postpone the nominations for the other offices till Monday evening, but this may possibly not be the case.

## THE OPPOSITION CANDIDATE FOR SPEAKER.

The opposition candidate for Speaker will, without much doubt, be Sumner Cox, it being ascertained that Ohio decidedly prefers him to Pendleton. There is still some talk of Mallory of Kentucky, but the Border State Copperheads will not be able to rally sufficient strength to induce his nomination.

## A CAUCUS.

Between fifty and sixty "Democratic Conservative" and "Constitutional Union" members of the House, as *The National Intelligencer*, the city chosen vehicle of calling them together, dominated them the Opposition, met in informal caucus at the capital this evening, Mr. King of Mo., presiding. The meeting partook of the nature of a social gathering, those present making each others acquaintance and interchanging views. There was little or no talk about board about the offices, the nominations for which will be made to-morrow night.

## GEN. BLAIR COMING.

Gen. Frank Blair will be in his seat in the House on Monday.

## THE INTERIOR DEPARTMENT ESTIMATES.

The estimates for the Department of the Interior for 1864, amounting to \$1,000,000, and the General Land Office about \$600,000. The Judiciary estimates were cut down at least \$200,000. The Indian Bureau figures were also cut down considerably. The Census Office does not care for any appropriation. The Patent Office has a balance of nearly \$38,000 on hand. The Agriculture Department ask for an appropriation of \$150,000. The Capitol extension and aqueduct estimates go to complete the grand total.

## THE PATENT-OFFICE OPERATIONS.

The following is a summary of operations of the Patent Office from October 1, 1862, to September 30, 1863, inclusive:

Applications received from Oct. 1, 1862, to Sept. 30, 1863, inclusive.....	5,123
Cases filed during the same period.....	791
Applications for the extension of patents.....	62
Cases heard, including remands and designs.....	3,607
Extensions granted.....	3,607
Applications on which patents had been allowed but not issued by reason of the non-payment of the first fee within the time prescribed by the law of March 3, 1861.....	370

Balance on hand Oct. 1, 1862.....\$4,197 25  
Cash received from Oct. 1, 1862, to Sept. 30, 1863.....17,033 25

Total.....\$21,230 50  
Expenses for same time.....\$109,401 11  
Balance to the credit of the Patent Fund Oct. 1, 63.....37,732 63

## THE FREEDMEN OF THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.

Gen. Wadsworth's report of his tour of inspection in the West will afford fresh proof of the capacity of the freedmen of the Mississippi valley to take care of themselves, to make the plantations more productive than when they were tilled by slaves, and to fight for their country. Gen. Wadsworth concludes, from a personal examination of all the plantations and camps on the Mississippi, that everything is working as well as could reasonably be expected by those who consider the necessary evils incident to the amelioration of the radical change in the social system of the South, and the neglect and exposure from which the freedmen

necessarily suffer upon their first arrival in the depots. The plantations on the Lower Mississippi are more productive than those above, because they have been less troubled by guerrillas, and been longer in operation. One singular plantation in Louisiana will not \$50,000 to the Government this year, and a number of the cotton plantations have been almost equally successful. Energetic and humane men could lease this land to great advantage. The colored troops were found to be of excellent quality, but their officers were not uniformly men of the right stamp, and did not always take pains to teach their men the drill. With very few exceptions the men are treated well by the officers and soldiers of the white regiments with whom they are brought in contact.

## Condition of the Union Prisoners.

PHILADELPHIA, Friday, Dec. 4, 1863.  
The Bulletin publishes a private letter from a prisoner in Libby Prison, which came through without the inspection of the Rebel officers, dated Nov. 16. It says, "The Rebels have again reduced our rations. We now receive per diem three-fourths of a pound of common bread, and one gallon of rice to ten men, and as much water as we can drink. Meat was stopped a week ago. The Rebels allow us to receive letters, but won't let us write complaints to the North if they can help it."

## The Coming Draft.

ALBANY, Friday, Dec. 4, 1863.  
Important information respecting volunteer recruiting, in answer to an application through a commission appointed by Gov. Seymour, composed of the Hon. Erlando Kellogg, the Hon. James A. Bell and William H. Bogart, esq., has been received.

The War Department has consented to the following propositions in relation to procuring volunteers under the President's proclamation dated Oct. 17, 1863, calling for 300,000 men:

1. That quotas be apportioned to towns and wards in the several Congressional districts of the State of New-York, and that assurance be given to such towns and wards as may furnish their full quota of volunteers under the recent call of the President for 300,000 men that they will be exempted from the pending draft, should one be rendered necessary in January next.
2. That the several towns and wards shall receive credit for all such volunteers as may have been mustered into the service of the United States since the draft, and the number so credited shall be deducted from their proportion of the quota assigned the State under the recent call.
3. That the Governor be authorized to raise complete companies of infantry, to be sent to such regiments in the field as have less than their proper number of company organizations. This power confers no authority to consolidate regiments.

## The Conservative Union National Committee.

CINCINNATI, Friday, Dec. 4, 1863.  
The Conservative Union National Committee met at the Burnet House at three o'clock. Gov. Wm. B. Campbell of Tennessee was made Chairman pro tem. The Hon. A. M. Kendall was elected permanent President of the Committee; Wm. C. Hurd of New-York was elected permanent Treasurer. The Convention assembled at 12 o'clock in the large hall of the Hotel Hamilton, and during its session, by the following named gentlemen:

The Hon. Garrett Davis of Kentucky, J. P. Farrell of New-York, Lieut. Gov. Jacob of Kentucky, William C. Hurd of New-York, Gen. Leslie